

Applecross Community Company Minutes

21st March 2016, 8pm Applecross Inn

Attendees: Judith Fish (chair), Alasdair Macleod, Ewen Gillies, Elodie Matthews, Marion Gilroy

Apologies: Jill Olsen, Alison Macleod

Note taker: Zuzana Vojackova

Meeting opened at 8pm

Agenda topics

1. Approval of last meeting's minutes

Minutes approved by Marion Gilroy, seconded by Alasdair Macleod

2. AppleNet update

- 2.1 Provision of service to visitors
- 2.2 Extra lines (progress)

Discussion:

2.1 Sean has been looking into different ways of supplying visitors with broadband via businesses in Applecross that are currently providing free unlimited service. The reason for this is to tackle the issue of visitors using up bandwidth that local subscribers are paying for whereas visitors are only asked for a donation and our lines are not suited for the amount of visitors that come to Applecross every year. It was agreed that a written proposal needs to be sent to these businesses (Inn, hostel, campsite) prior to the change.

Sean's proposal is to offer 2 connections. One with limited bandwidth for visitors or time limited (e.g. similar to Trainline wifi service) and separate one for the business itself (e.g. office use)

Sean will also need to assess each connection and find out what extra equipment is needed to proceed with the change.

The leased line is in place at Mallaig exchange but still waiting for ducting to be installed to Mallaig High School. Time scale for this so far is end of July 2016, however this may be subject to change.

James Sweet suggested to look into connection via Kyle of Lochalsh in a meantime as this may be a quicker option.

The speeds suggested for the new connection are 40-50 Mbs.

Possible price increase for provision of broadband to customers has been discussed in order to cover future maintenance and equipment costs.

Extra help for maintenance is needed to assist Sean in future upkeep and maintenance of the network. This is to be mentioned in the newsletter as well. Annie MacDonald has been proposed for this position and Marion Gilroy has offered to suggest this to Annie.

Zuzana is in a process of discussing migration of 4 lines and ordering 1 extra line with Fluency and James Sweet (WHAN).

Raasay internet supply failure has been temporarily resolved. Sean has mentioned that the problem may be fault in power supply. This will need to be assessed further.

Conclusions:

The board has approved a purchase of extra equipment needed for internet supply to visitors.

Written proposal is to be sent to businesses with notification of supply change.

Extra maintenance person for AppleNet is needed.

Sean to find out time scale for connection via Kyle.

Actions:

Purchase extra line + migrate 4 to Fluency

Written proposal + assessment of sites

Personnel responsible:

Zuzana Vojackova

Sean Kilbride

3. Update on company's current status and situation

3.1 Accounts Progress

3.2 Future organization of accounts

3.3 Newsletter

Discussion:

ACC accounts are ready and were approved by the board during the meeting and signed by Judith Fish.

Alison will drop off accounts and Annual Return to Companies House tomorrow. Company is to be reinstated in the next couple of weeks and the bank accounts are to be opened shortly after.

Claim to HIE re Alison's salary up to the end of first quarter of 2015 is ready to go.

Elodie Matthews and Zuzana Vojackova are to take over the upkeep of accounts from now on. Elodie, as the company's treasurer, will keep stock of income and expenses and report on ACC's financial status to the directors on regular basis. She will then pass related documents onto Zuzana who will process them for the company's accountant.

David Govan (VAL), the company's accountant, will be doing the Annual Return for both companies and to OSCR for ACC in the future.

Newsletter is to be put together. Contributors mentioned so far are Sean Kilbride (AppleNet) and Alasdair Macleod (Hydro, ACC). Other contributions from directors welcome. All information is to be checked by Alison.

The newsletter will also mention recruitment of possible directors.

AGM date to be agreed after Easter Holidays.

Action:

Personnel responsible:

Accounts handover

Zuzana / Alison

Newsletter contributions

Sean Kilbride, Alasdair Macleod + others

AGM date to be organized

the board

4. Recruitment of new potential directors

Discussion:

Recruitment of new directors will be mentioned in the newsletter.
Directors agreed to openly ask company members to join the board and also approach individuals they think may be suitable or have skills to offer to the company.

ACT Ltd urgently needs more directors!

Actions:

Personnel responsible:

Recruit more directors for both companies

All directors

5. Any other business

- 5.1 Visit from HIE
- 5.2 Public toilets
- 5.3 Hydro

Discussion:

5.1 Support governance training for the directors has been suggested. This is to be organized by Ian Philp (HIE). The idea was welcomed and approved by all directors.

5.2 Flushers (leavers) adjustment is needed at public toilets. Ewen offered to examine these.

George Gilroy is filling in for Anna in the upkeep of the public toilets. Marion has kindly offered to help out when George is on his holidays. Any other volunteers welcome.

Alison has reported that the Comfort Scheme for public toilets may come through after all.

Alison has suggested to the board (via email) a project called "Toilet twinning" that would involve sponsoring a toilet in e.g. third world country. Information

would be advertised at the public toilets and could potentially boost donations. This was positively received by the board.

5.4 Alasdair and Ewen have reported that the Hydro is running fine, still having some teething problems, but these are promptly sorted out by engineers from Highland Eco when needed.

Tour of hydro for directors has been proposed.

Reinstatement work is still to be carried out by Highland Eco as this is part of the contract. Ground needs to dry out before this is carried out. Occasional snagging by Highland Eco is still ongoing.

Opening ceremony is to be held when all site work is finished.

Next meeting to be held on 26th April 2016 at 9pm, Applecross Inn/Hall